



Drinking Water Safety

Information for East Chicago residents

The residents of East Chicago receive their drinking water from Lake Michigan. The city uses a new water treatment plant built in 2009-2011 in conjunction with its older conventional treatment plant. Lead from the soil does not enter the drinking water system, but EPA is providing general recommendations to avoid potential exposure to lead in drinking water.

Like most older Midwestern cities, many East Chicago homes have lead service lines (the pipes connecting homes to the water mains). East Chicago water is treated to keep lead from leaded pipes from getting into the water. Because of this treatment, the city meets federal water quality standards for lead.

Residents concerned about lead in drinking water can contact the city water department to ask to have their water tested.

There are also several other steps that residents can take to reduce their exposure to lead in drinking water. These include:

- Run water before use if it has not been used for several hours.
- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.
- Purchase a water filter that is certified to remove "total lead."
- On a regular basis, clean and remove any debris from faucet aerators to clear out any particles of lead that may become trapped in the aerator.
- Be aware of any work that could disturb your lead service line, such as water main replacement, lead service line repair or replacement of part of the service line.
- Purchase lead-free faucets and plumbing components.

For more information, residents can call EPA's hotline: 219-801-2199

More information is also available on EPA's website:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>